

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) SHEET

W Sammamish River Bridge (Southbound Traffic)

The West Sammamish River Bridge was constructed in 1938, crosses the Sammamish River on 68th Avenue NE (.2 miles south of SR 522), carries southbound traffic only and is located within the City of Kenmore. Over 14,000 vehicles a day (week day traffic) use this Bridge.

Why does the West Sammamish River Bridge need to be replaced?

The bridge is near the end of its service life and is currently categorized as “Structurally Deficient”. The current live loads (vehicles) and dead loads (bridge self-weights) on the Bridge are greater than the bridge was designed for and the bridge is showing signs of deterioration such as cracking, leaching, and spalling. Traffic volumes on the bridge continue to increase.

Is the existing West Sammamish River Bridge safe?

Although the bridge is categorized as structurally deficient, it does not mean the bridge is unsafe; rather it means that it has deterioration to one or more of its major components. To reduce further deterioration on the aging bridge, the City placed load restriction of trucks in 2014.



What type of bridge is proposed for the replacement?

The new bridge will be constructed slightly west of the existing bridge in parallel to the Northbound (East) Bridge. The proposed bridge will be much wider than the existing one, about 45 feet wide compared to 30 feet, providing two 10-ft vehicular lanes and one 16-ft multi-use path (both pedestrian and bikes) on the west side. Actual size and features of bridge may vary depending on available funding.

Will the existing Northbound Bridge be upgraded?

No specific upgrade on the Northbound Bridge is planned this time but the City may look into modifying the sidewalk and/or railing.

Will the new bridge have wider sidewalk?

The current proposal is for the new bridge to have a 16-ft wide multi-path on the west side of the bridge, separated by a concrete barrier from the vehicular lanes. The proposed multi-path will be delineated for an 8-ft pedestrian and 8-ft bike pathways using different color and/or texture finished concrete. Actual widths and features may vary depending on available funding.

How the construction of the bridge will affect the traffic on 68th Avenue NE?

The new bridge will be constructed in stages and two lanes of vehicular traffic will remain open to both directions as much as possible during the construction. There may be some temporary bridge and/or lane closures for certain construction activities, such as bridge demolition and concrete girder placement, but those activities will likely occur during non-peak traffic periods or at night times and/or weekends.

What is the project current status?

Engineering design and environmental documentation/permitting are currently underway and expected to be completed by the fall of 2018. Construction is expected to begin in 2019 and complete in late 2021.

What is the project cost?

The total project cost, including design and construction, is estimated at approximately \$31M.

Who does fund the project?

The Project is funded by the FHWA's Highway Bridge Programs for \$12M, Transportation Improvement Board funding for \$6.9M, federal STP funds of \$1.6M and the Connecting Washington State fund for \$8M. Local Kenmore funds of \$3M will also be used for the project.

How can I get more information about the Project?

Please contact the City's Project Manager:

John Vicente at (425) 984-6154 or JVicente@kenmorewa.gov.



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